Def-1-USS Liberty-II

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DEPARTMENT OF STATE

Washington, D.C. 20520

7534

May 12, 1969

MEMORANDUM

TO :U - The Under Secretary

FROM :NEA - Joseph J. Sisco

SUBJECT:Press Release on USS Liberty Claims

I want to call your attention to the attached announcement, which we have cleared for release to the press tomorrow, concerning Israel's recent payment of our claims for personal injuries arising out of the attack on the USS Liberty during the 1967 Arab-Israeli war. The attached announcement is similar to the one we made last year concerning the payment of death claims. There has been considerable public and Congressional interest in this question and we feel we have a responsibility to make the settlement of these claims as they are paid a matter of public record.

We have informed the Israeli Government of tomorrow's announcement and have incorporated in the text some of the changes the Israelis suggested.

DEPARTMENT OF STATE A/CDC/MR
DATE 1/10/83
PA or FOI EXEMPTIONS

Attachment

Press Announcement

NEA/IAI:ALAtherton,Jr:mob

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DEPARTMENT OF STATE

FOR THE PRESS

Payment of U.S.S. Liberty Claims

On April 28, 1969 the United States Government received $3,566,457 from the Government of Israel in settlement of certain claims arising out of the attack on the U.S.S. Liberty on June 8, 1967. The amount received represents payment in full of the following United States claims:

A. 164 claims totalling $3,452,275 on behalf of the members of the crew of the U.S.S. Liberty who were injured in the attack:

B. A claim for $92,437 for expenses incurred by the United States Government in providing medical treatment to the injured men:

C. A claim for $21,745 for expenses incurred by the United States Government in reimbursing members of the crew of the U.S.S. Liberty for personal property damaged or destroyed in the attack.

Distribution to the injured men of funds received in settlement of their claims is now in process, and will be completed in a few weeks.

On May 31, 1968, the Government of Israel paid in full claims totalling $3,323,500 on behalf of the families of the 34 men killed in the attack.

The only unsettled claim arising out of the attack on the U.S.S. Liberty is the claim for damage to the ship, which remains under discussion.

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